

**TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 12, 2008**

Meeting Place: Grand Rapids Municipal Building, 2410 48th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Present: Chairman Don Bohn, Supervisors Arne Nystrom, Jeanne Fehrman, Bill Clendenning, and Edward Hellner; Treasurer Kristine Ginter, Clerk Judy McLellan, Building Inspector Lorelei Fuehrer, Fire Chief Scott Bernette and Police Chief Dave Lewandowski.

Absent:

Excused:

NOTE: () indicates agenda item of when Board member joined the meeting.

Notices of the meeting were legally posted at The Store in Kellner, the Grand Rapids Garage and the Grand Rapids Municipal Building, and published in the Daily Tribune.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Don Bohn.

1. **Approve minutes of July 8, 21, 22 and 31, 2008 Town Board Meetings.** Motion (Hellner/Fehrman) to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried.
2. **Application of Chris Klein for a C.U.P. to add 10' to an existing garage which will be 6' into the 30' required setback area at 5341 Wazeecha Ave.** Motion (Clendenning/Hellner) to approve the application of Chris Klein for a C.U.P to add 10' to existing garage with conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission. 1. Storage shed on west side of property be removed. 2. Remove or thin the trees on west side of existing garage. 3. Complete construction within one year. Motion carried.
3. **Application of Joann Crowell for a C.U.P. for 3 dogs at 1020 Kuhn Ave.** Motion (Nystrom/Hellner) to approve the application of Joann Crowell for a C.U.P for 3 dogs at 1020 Kuhn Ave. as presented. Motion carried
4. **Application of Richard Heck, 2910 64th St. N. to rezone 6.91 acres from R2 to Agricultural.** Motion (Clendenning/Fehrman) to approve the rezoning of 6.91 acres at 2910 64th St. N from R2 to Agricultural. Motion carried.
5. **Application of Mike & Peggy Doughty, 7631 North Circle Dr for a C.U.P. for a 30' X 50' detached garage on a vacant lot.** Motion (Clendenning/Hellner) to approve the application for a 30' X 50' detached garage on a vacant lot with the conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission. 1. There be no outside storage. 2. If lot with garage is to ever be sold it should be sold with house lots 1 & 2 of Eberhardt Subdivision or the buyer must be advised a building permit must be taken out within two years to build a home on lot 7.
6. **Approval /Denial of Jewell Ninneman and Officer Rob Wiltse attending TRACS training in Wis. Dells on September 23, 2008.** Motion (Hellner/Fehrman) to approve Jewell Ninneman and Officer Rob Wiltse attending TRACS training in Wis. Dells on September 23, 2008. Motion carried.
7. **Approval/Denial of Resolution 2008-23 to adopt First Responder Mutual Aid Agreement with Portage County.** Fire Chief Scott Bernette explained that Portage County wishes to have a separate agreement for Mutual Aid for the First Responders. Motion (Nystrom/Hellner) to adopt Resolution 2008-23 approving the Mutual Aid Agreement with Portage County. Motion carried.
8. **Discussion of foundation located at Lot 7 Pointe Estates and future plans of Dave Ramsden to build on aforementioned foundation.** Building Inspector Lorelei Fuehrer stated that Mr. Ramsden has had the foundation inspected by Centralia Development, Inc. Centralia Development has stated that the foundation will be ok to build on with some minor repairs. Ms. Fuehrer stated that it will take about 2 months for Mr. Ramsden to obtain the sanitary permits needed to build on the foundation which would give him this time to repair the foundation. She is asking the board to require a building permit to be taken out at this time, the foundation enclosed by winter and the approval for her to pull the permit if work on the building ceases for 45 days. Supervisor Fehrman stated that she felt because of past circumstances with this property that a 6 month restriction on the amount of time to complete the building be enacted by the board. Supervisor Nystrom stated building permits are good for 2 years and the 6 month restriction would be going against the town's ordinance. Supervisor Clendenning said that he felt it was wrong to place restrictions on the building permit for Mr. Ramsden when it is not done for other residents. Supervisor Fehrman said that the open foundation is a safety concern and feels that the board needs to take some action to have Mr. Ramsden correct the situation. Chairman Bohn stated that the town is not responsible for any

liability on private property and this is up to Mr. Ramsden to correct on his own. The town can not make him correct the situation. Chairman Bohn stated that the town can require him to repair and have the foundation certified as build able within a certain time or we can proceed with condemnation procedures. Motion (Nystrom/Hellner) to give Mr. Ramsden 60 days to repair the foundation, obtain sanitary permits and have foundation certified by engineer. If these requirements are met in the 60 days then a building permit will be issued. If the requirements are not met within the 60 days the town will continue with condemnation procedures. Vote 4-1 with Supervisor Fehrman voting no. Motion carried.

9. **Discussion on condition of property at 7420 Dewberry owned by Gene & Gayle Kewin and owners plans for the property.** Building Inspector Lorelei Fuehrer stated that she had a conversation with Mrs. Kewin that morning and they plan on doing repairs to the property. Ms. Fuehrer asked the board to ok her sending a letter to the Kewins stating that they have 30 days to repair the roof and other items needed to bring the home up to code. The board felt that this was a acceptable way to proceed at this time.
10. **Discussion on Todd Schmidt living in garage at 1831 Shamrock Lane.** Todd Schmidt was present to address the board. Building Inspector Lorelei Fuehrer stated that Mr. Schmidt is currently living in a building at 1831 Shamrock Lane that was originally built as a garage. Over the years it has been improved and a septic system added. The proper permits for the septic were obtained at that time. Ms. Fuehrer stated that she has not been into the property to inspect it so she does not know if it is up to code as a dwelling. Even if it is there has never been a building/dwelling permit issued for the property. Mr. Schmidt agreed to have Ms. Fuehrer inspect the property, and work with her to bring the property up to code as a one bedroom dwelling. The board agreed that this is the correct course of action to proceed with.
11. **Discussion and approval of bid/contract for repair of Municipal Building roof.** Sealed bids from Nick Michels & Sons, Inc. for \$33,000 and Altmann Construction Company, Inc. for \$36,300 had been received and publicly opened on August 6th. Supervisor Nystrom noted that Altmann Construction bid had a possible deduction of \$9,000 if the existing insulation could still be used. Supervisor Hellner and Building Inspector Fuehrer stated that when the initial inspection of the roof was done it showed that there was little possibility of the insulation being usable. Motion (Clendenning/Hellner) to award the contract for repairs to the Municipal Building roof to Nick Michels & Sons, Inc. for \$33,000. Motion carried.
12. **Discussion and approval for slag seal coat contract for 2008.** Sealed bids from Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC and Scott Construction, Inc. had been received and publicly opened on. August 6th. Bids were for approximately 5 miles of roads. Fahrner's bids were 24' wide, \$18,710, 30' wide, \$23,390, Flex patch \$1.56 per pound. Scott's bids were 24' wide, \$18163.20, 30' wide, \$22,704, flex patch \$1.25 per pound. Chairman Bohn noted that one of the qualifications for the bid was to supply a list of five previously completed Slag Seal and Flex-Patch projects that have gone through three winters along with the price. This allows the board to contact these municipalities to find out how the product has held up. Scott Construction did not supply the list along with their bid. Motion (Nystrom/Fehrman) to accept the bid from Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC being that all specification for the bid were met. Vote 4-1 with Supervisor Clendenning voting no.
13. **Approval/Denial of contract with Wil-Kil Pest Control for services at the Municipal Building and Fire Dept. Building.** Clerk McLellan explained that there has been a slight mouse problem at the Municipal Building recently. Discussion was held as to the need for a professional service or just setting some traps. The opinion of the board was to set some traps and revisit the situation in a couple of months.
14. **Approval/Denial of contract between the Town of Grand Rapids and the Town of Grand Rapids Police Officers Association/WPPA for 2008-2010.** Motion (Clendenning/Hellner) to approve contract as presented. Motion carried
15. **Approval/Denial of Clerk receiving per diems for meetings when acting as Assistant Secretary for the Police & Fire Commission.** Motion (Nystrom/Fehrman) to approve the Clerk being paid per diems for meetings of the Police & Fire Commission. Motion carried.
16. **Discussion and approval of the number of part-time Police Officers that may be added to the current roster.** Chief Lewandowski stated that we currently have only 3 part-time officers and requested that he be allowed to add 4 additional officers to the current roster. Motion (Fehrman/Clendenning) to approve the request of Chief Lewandowski to add 4 part-time officers. Motion carried.
17. **Approval/Denial of Town taking piece of equipment to Labor Day Celebration for display.** Motion (Clendenning/Fehrman) to approve a town employee to take a piece of equipment to the Labor Day Celebration for display. Motion carried.
18. **Approval/Denial of Attorney continuing paperwork to accept two small parcels of land from person who wishes to donate parcels to Town.** Chairman Bohn stated that they would need electors approval to sell land after it was donated to the town. The cost would be \$800-\$900 for the paperwork to be completed by the town's attorney

which we are not sure could be recouped with the sale of the land. The parcels are of no use to the town. Motion (Fehrman/Clendenning) to have the attorney cease any processes on obtaining the parcels and send a letter to the owners stating that the town is not interested in accepting the parcels. Motion carried.

19. Discussion of alleyway in Edgewood Acres Subdivision. Attorney Jim Quinn was not able to be in attendance and this will be discussed at a later date when he can be present to give the board direction.

20. Approval of July disbursement vouchers. No questions.

21. Approval/Denial of Operators License Applications. Motion (Nystrom/Hellner) to approve Operators License as presented. Motion carried.

22. Monthly Reports from committees and departments.

- **Police Department:** Chief of Police Dave Lewandowski reported that there were 400 calls for service for the month of July. The TRACS system is up and running. July was a very busy month with the officers assisting with the 4th of July event downtown, search for Keith Karnatz, and state water ski show. Last weekend the car cruise was held and went without any major problems. The 3rd laptop which was obtained from a grant was installed in squad car #3. All three squad cars now have Garmin GPS units which will help in response time for mutual aid calls outside the township as well as training of new officers who may not be completely familiar to the area.
- **Fire Department:** Chief Bernette reported that there were 10 calls in July which consisted of 2 structure fires, 3 vehicle accidents, 1 grass fire, 1 mutual aid, 1 RIT call, 1 PD assist, 1 false alarm. Training for the month of Aug. will consist of: Engine 3 and portable pump operations and Ladder 1 setup operation with new members. First Responders training will be Triage and Transport. The EMS paperwork has been signed and sent to the state. Should take about 60 days to process. The First Responders will be starting out with about 30 members.
- **Safety:** Safety Director Scott Bernette reported that there have been no lost time injuries. Next safety meeting will be held the last week of Aug. or first week of Sept. The new siren should be installed Aug 13th at 64th and South Park.
- **Public Works:** Chairman Bohn stated that the County should be finished blacktopping Gene's Court and Curve Street this week. Road work in Brookhaven Subdivision should be completed this week also. Supervisor Hellner stated that the city is finished installing the water main on 32nd Street and the contractor will be in shortly to finish the road.
- **Crime Stoppers:** Supervisor Arne Nystrom stated that Crime Stoppers is having a Brat sale at Wal-Mart on August 22nd from 10:00 to 2:00. Crime Stoppers is also looking into having a musical event later this fall as a fund raiser.
- **Airport Commission:** Supervisor Nystrom was unable to attend meeting so Supervisor Clendenning attend in his place. Supervisor Clendenning stated that the attorney is researching insurance for the volunteers at the Balloon Rally. Membership in the Airport Commission will be expanded with Nekoosa joining. This will be an agenda item for the next Grand Rapids board meeting. A request for DSL internet was received and will be provided by Solarus at a cost of \$50 per month.
- **Planning and Zoning:** Supervisor Fehrman stated that the Planning Commission meet last evening with a C.U.P. request for a home based business that will come before the board next meeting and one request to split a parcel of land which was tabled. Smart Growth will be meeting on Monday August 18, 2008 at 6:30 p.m..
- **Building Inspector:** Building Inspector Lorelei Fuehrer stated there were 20 building permits issued in the month of July but none of them were for new homes.
- **Recycling and Garbage:** Supervisor Clendenning stated that the Committee will be meeting on Friday August 22 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss how the garbage and recycling for the town can be improved. A possible recycling swap meet such as the Town of Rome has conducted will be discussed.

23. Other Public Input

None

24. The Grand Rapids Town Board will move into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85 (1) (g)

“conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.”

Motion (Nystrom/Hellner) to move into closed session. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried. In closed session 8:05 p.m.

Motion (Nystrom/Fehrman) to move into open session. A roll call vote was taken and unanimously carried. In open session 8:41 p.m.

Motion (Nystrom/Hellner) to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:42 p.m.

Minutes subject to board approval.

Respectfully submitted and approved
this _____ day of _____, 2008

Judy McLellan
Town Clerk